

Kyodan

Kyodan News Letter

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A SUMMER IN JAPAN

Japan is a land of islands, oceans, and mountains. It has long been the custom of the Japanese people to use whatever vacation time they can get in summer for travel and sight-seeing. The Church, too, uses the hot summer months of July and August, not only to escape the city heat but also to provide opportunities for fellowship and productive group study in various fields.

Long vacation periods that enable a family, as a unit, to spend time camping and travelling are still rare. Thus, it is comparatively easy to arrange short meetings at a resort where quiet, restful study can be done.

Summer group activities have a special meaning, too, for people whose home life, school and work experiences and friendships lie almost completely outside the area of self-conscious Christian reflection, discipline Christian community life and a daily routine that takes into account what discipleship means.

The summer of 1967 will be no exception. During the summer months here are some of the activities that will take place. In addition to these, planned and sponsored by central committees or agencies of the Kyodan, there will be many other retreats and camps sponsored by districts within the Kyodan or by the National Christian Council, of which the Kyodan is a member.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISM

One of the Kyodan's Northern Districts has set up a program involving laymen and pastors from various countries to participate in a program of concentrated evangelism. Two laymen from the USA will work in and around the Sendai Area; Two pastors from Hawaii will be used in Sendai and Fuku-shima areas; One South East Asian student pastor will join this team. Pastors from Formosa were invited to send five men to join in this work but for various reasons they were unable at this time to send the workers.

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"CHURCH STRUCTURE"

July 4-6

Sponsored by the Kyodan

THEME: "THE STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH"

The Kyodan for the past year has been studying itself--its form its structure. What must we do to equip ourselves to meet the challenges of a modern Japan and world? This meeting will be attended by about 70 churchmen representing all functions within the Kyodan and all geographical areas.

"EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING"

July 6-7

The Kyodan Executive Committee meets periodically for business and study. This meeting in addition to business items will study proposals from the study on "Church Structure".

"PASTORS RETREAT"

July 17-21

Sponsored by Evangelism and Faith and Order Comm.

THEME: "THE CHURCH AND THE PRESENT AGE"

Over 100 ministers and church leaders will meet to discuss the church and its responsibilities today. The Japanese minister, like his counterpart throughout the world lives in a society that is restless and changing. What must happen to him to enable him to effectively minister to these people?

"HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RETREAT"

July 26-29

THEME: "YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH"

One out of every seven Japanese Youth of the age of 18 attends and most always graduates from college--the youth of the Church is no exception. They will assume positions of leadership in all areas of society--in what forms can these Christian young people be the "salt of the earth" in a country where the ratio of Christians in society is about one of every two hundred persons?

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"LAYMENS MEETING"

July 27-29

THEME: "PREPARING THE LAYMEN FOR THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW"

Sponsored jointly by the Committees on Evangelism and Christian Education, this meeting is planned for laymen who will represent all areas of Japan. The late Hendrik Kraemer greatly encouraged Japanese laymen to be "evangelistic laymen" willing to bear all responsibilities of the church. This group of people is now giving a dimension to Church Evangelism that we have not had in recent years in Japan. They realize that "a church of tomorrow" must have their power and cooperation, if it is going to survive.

"CONFERENCE ON CHURCH MUSIC"

August 21-26

THEME: "THE PLACE OF MUSIC IN EVANGELISM"

With a registration of over 200 already in hand this promises to be a most fruitful conference. As the Japanese hymnal is edited from time to time we see a continued rise in the number of hymns written by Japanese included in the Hymnal. We are concerned about the Christian Church becoming a part of our culture--if our faith can be put into music we will have overcome one great hurdle on bringing together Christianity and Japanese culture.

"CHURCH MUSIC DIRECTORS CONFERENCE"

August 24-26

THEME: "LITURGY AND THE INDIGENIZATION OF CHRISTIANITY"

Prepared for a smaller group of people this conference will be restricted to the above theme. The Japanese need to make some contribution to church Liturgy and this will be an attempt to make this study.

"MASS COMMUNICATION"

August 28-30

THEME: "THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MASS COMMUNICATION IN THE KYODAN"

At present the Kyodan does not have a Mass Communication Center in its structure. However, the Japan Broadcasting Committee (Kyodan) during the past two years of operation has gathered much material on this subject as it relates to Japan. It is felt that with this material that some basic discussions concerning Mass Communications can now be made.

A JAPAN PREACHING TEAM TO FORMOSA

Responding to an invitation from the Church in Formosa the Kyodan is now selecting and orientating a team of six to nine ministers to visit Formosa this September for a one month period of evangelism. Japan has been the recipient of many efforts in the past of North American Churches sending preaching teams to Japan but this is the first real effort of the Kyodan to respond by being the sending body.

